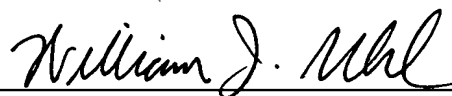


**REMARKS**

This application is a division of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/146,856, filed May 16, 2002, which has been allowed. It is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and an early and favorable response to this amendment is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the attorney listed below should there be any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William J. Uhl", written in black ink over a horizontal line.

William J. Uhl

Registration No. 25,567

Attorney of Record

Telephone No.: (412) 434-2881

Facsimile No.: (412) 434-4292

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

February 5, 2004